

tion but the general principle which would restrain a merchant from giving a valuable secret to an unauthorized person. On the other hand, a pharmacist may refuse to fill a copied prescription which does not bear the actual signature of the physician, and this he would be quite certain to do, if such copied formula should include a poisonous ingredient, for the result of which he would, in filling the copied prescription, become responsible.

SAXONY.

Physicians' prescriptions are the property of the patient and are not retained by the apothecary. Each prescription must be carefully copied, including name of patient and physician, in a book which the apothecary is by law required to keep. These books are preserved for ten years, and then destroyed. Apothecaries are not allowed to compound prescriptions written by any person except physicians holding diplomas.

All prescriptions may be refilled, unless they are composed of strong or dangerous ingredients. Prescriptions containing poison or narcotics, such as morphia, chloral, etc., cannot be refilled without special order from physician or dentist.

Liquid medicines for internal use must be put up in round bottles with a white label. Liquid medicines for external use must be contained in a hexagonal bottle, three sides of flat and three sides of ribbed glass, with dark red label.

Apothecaries may furnish copies of prescriptions to the original owner upon proper identification.

ITALY.

Section 31 of the "Sanitary Code" of 1888 provides that all pharmacists must preserve a copy of all prescriptions filled by them; that whenever they furnish poisons upon the prescription of a doctor, surgeon or veterinarian they must retain and preserve the original prescription, writing thereon the name of the person to whom the poison has been given, and, on request, giving a copy thereof to the purchaser. In every such case they must note in a special register, which, on request, must be exhibited to the authorities, the quantity and kind of poison sold, the date of sale, with the name, residence, art or profession of the purchaser.

Prescriptions, unless of a simple and harmless nature, will not be renewed by a pharmacist. Pharmacists are required to give, if so requested, a copy of any

prescription filled by them, marking it with the word "copy."

THE NETHERLANDS.

An apothecary is prohibited from giving prescriptions for examination to anyone, or to give copies thereof except to the doctor who made the prescription or to the doctor who treats the patient, to the patient and to judicial and medical officers appointed for the examination of those prescriptions. Exact copies of those prescriptions, signed by the apothecaries, must be given to those persons when required by them.

The apothecaries have to keep on file the prescriptions offered to and prepared by them for twenty years. In transferring the store to another apothecary, the prescriptions are also transferred; in case of liquidation of a store, the nearest interested parties deposit those prescriptions with the medical inspector.

RUSSIA.

No proprietary medicines are manufactured or sold in Russia, the apothecaries filling all prescriptions, using the French metric system. Original prescriptions are pasted in books and kept permanently, the purchaser being furnished with a copy, which must be returned to the apothecary in order to have it refilled, this prescription being retained and the customer furnished with a copy, each prescription being treated as if original. Prescriptions containing poison are not refilled, but must be given each time by a regular physician, as no poisons of any description are sold except by prescription.

SPAIN.

The practice is for the pharmacist to keep the prescription on file and give copy thereof to the customer. It may be refilled as often as desired. Prescriptions are kept on file for many years.

SWITZERLAND.

Pharmacists are compelled by law to keep on file a copy of any prescription which they may fill for three years. The original prescription is returned to the customer.

They are not allowed to put up the prescription for any other person but the one mentioned in the same by the physician giving it. Should the prescription contain drugs of a powerful or poisonous nature the pharmacist is not allowed to renew it unless authorized by the physician from whom it originally issued. He is not allowed to show the prescription to any one or give a copy thereof

unless authorized so to do by the physician or the patient for whom it was written, and both he and his assistants are especially compelled by law to keep secret the contents of any prescription which they may fill.

GENEVA.

Chemists are obliged to keep their prescriptions on file for three years, and as a matter of fact all good houses preserve them for an indefinite period, only destroying them after very many years have elapsed.

In a few cases prescriptions are returned to foreign tourists *en passage*, who have need of them for future use, but otherwise the practice is invariably to keep them on file.

Prescriptions may be renewed indefinitely, and druggists are allowed to give copies whenever requested by the customer, unless the prescription states expressly that it is not to be repeated.

TURKEY.

No prescriptions shall be filled unless it bears the signature of a doctor, surgeon, or veterinarian whose name is registered at the Imperial Medical College, and an official list of names will be found in every pharmacy.

All the prescriptions filled shall be numbered and copied, according to their numbers, in a book certified by the general director of medical affairs.

Remedies prepared at a pharmacy according to a prescription shall be sealed at the opening, and must have a label upon which the name of the user and the directions are written. For internal remedies the color of the said label must be white, and that of external, orange.

As was mentioned in the above, the pharmacist must copy the prescription, with its proper number, in a book, put the same number on the prescription, and return it to the owner.

Besides those who hold permission to practise pharmacy nobody in any circumstance and by no pretext shall sell in retail any injurious medicine, nor shall they prepare any prescription of a doctor, surgeon, or veterinarian. This prohibition is also specially for those who are wholesale druggists, perfumers, or root-sellers.

UNITED KINGDOM—GREAT BRITAIN.

Prescriptions can and may be dispensed at any pharmacy in the country, and, as a rule, patent medicines, proprietary articles, perfumes, etc., can be obtained at the same establishments.